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25 April 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence *RH*

SUBJECT : Comments on Admiral Rickover's
Testimony Before Stennis Prepared-
ness Subcommittee

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1. Admiral Rickover appeared before the Preparedness Subcommittee on 13 March to testify on the US nuclear submarine and surface ship programs. The Admiral spoke after Captain Bradley of the Naval Intelligence Command presented an intelligence briefing on the Soviet submarine threat. Yesterday [REDACTED] and I read the transcript of the meeting.

2. Captain Bradley's briefing was drawn almost entirely from agreed national intelligence, and we would have no comment to offer the Senate staff on this part of the session. Admiral Rickover interrupted the briefing once to comment on the new evidence that the Soviet nuclear-powered N-class attack submarine could attain speeds of 26 knots. Recalling that this submarine *was previously estimated to have a maximum speed of 22 knots, the Admiral criticized what he described as the conservative approach of the intelligence community. He was particularly upset that the Department of Defense had not yet changed the 22-knot figure in its Table of Effectiveness used to calculate US needs.* *believe modification from about 1963. 9*

3. The particular focus of the Admiral's concern was the disparity between the Soviet attack submarine fleet (about 275, including 17 nuclear) and that of the US (105, including 33 nuclear). Admiral Rickover said he believed the US was falling farther and farther behind the USSR in attack submarines. He said the US should be building a 31-knot attack submarine and should be planning for a 34-knot submarine.

** We believe it can probably go maybe 2 knots faster but have no evidence to prove it.*


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4. The Admiral saved his most scalding attack for the Department of Defense, particularly the cost effective "types" in Dr. Enthoven's shops whose only contribution was delay. He criticized the entire process used by the DOD to develop new submarines and surface ships. The Admiral sees in the Soviet approach a decision to build single-mission submarines which can be turned out cheaper and faster than submarines built for multiple missions according to DOD requirements.

probably correct view. J


BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
Strategic Research

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